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ism in its relation to the foreign policies of the state. He is radically opposed to the accepted theory that the policy which broke the prosperity of Rhodes and caused the destruction of Corinth and Carthage in 146 B. C. was commercial. In his judgment Roman commerce does not appear as a determining factor in her foreign relations until the first century B. C. Interesting and cleverly organized as this chapter is, the reviewer regrets that he did not find it convincing. Throughout the book the attitude of the author is anti-Mommsen and the Roman senatorial policy receives a good whitewashing. It is unfortunate that Eumenes of Cardia, in Plutarch's *Eumenes*, has been confused with the Attalid king, Eumenes I. of Pergamum (p. 244). The ample notes appended to each chapter give evidence of vast reading. The index of the book is inadequate, as a reference to the subject of the fetial institution will demonstrate.

W. L. WESTERMANN.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

The Beneventan Script: a History of the South Italian Minuscule.

By E. A. LOEW, Ph.D., Research Associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press; London: Humphrey Milford. 1914. Pp. xix, 384.)

AMONG the so-called national hands into which the Latin handwritings of the early Middle Ages have been habitually divided in the palaeographical manuals, that termed Lombardic possesses the smallest measure of historical justification. Not only is the name misleading, since this form of writing had nothing to do with the Lombards or even with Lombardy, but, what is more important, the concept is erroneous, since it confuses in one family hands of quite different character from places as far apart as Monte Cassino and Corbie. All this and more was demonstrated by the brilliant investigations of Ludwig Traube, who showed that the unit in the literary history of this period was not the Roman province or the German kingdom but the monastic *scriptorium*, affected of course by regional influences but also by migration and by intercommunication of various sorts. As far as Italy is concerned, a well-defined book-hand arose only in the south, with Monte Cassino as the most active centre and the duchy of Benevento as its approximate territory, whence the medieval name *littera beneventana* which it is now recovering in place of the misnomer Lombardic. This script is the subject of the volume just published by Dr. Loew, an American pupil of Traube already known for his special work in this field, who has worthily carried on the master's tradition in the most thorough and comprehensive study that has yet been made of any of the handwritings of the early Middle Ages. As the result of a personal examination of more than six hundred extant manuscripts of Beneventan origin scattered in all parts of Europe, Dr. Loew has determined the extent and duration of

this form of writing, its rules and traditions, the forms of letters and combinations of letters, punctuation, and methods of abbreviation. How such matters may be of assistance in fixing the date and provenance of a manuscript and in the criticism of its text, those acquainted with Traube's studies will readily recognize. Dr. Loew has also an eye for matters of more general interest, for he realizes the importance of southern Italy in the history of medieval culture and is able to point out what we owe to the activity of Beneventan scribes. Thus Monte Cassino alone is responsible for the preservation to the modern world of Varro, Apuleius, the *Histories* of Tacitus, and a large part of the *Annals*; while extant manuscripts prove that the Greek physicians were known in the south before the time of Constantinus Africanus. The discovery of Beneventan *scriptoria* at Zara, Ragusa, and other points on the Dalmatian coast offers interesting proof that these outposts of Latin civilization derived their culture from Apulia and not from northern Italy. Dr. Loew's work is not only a credit to American scholarship but an excellent illustration of the value of endowing research in the humanities, for his years of patient labor were made possible by the assistance of the Carnegie Institution and Mr. James Loeb, and his results have become accessible to scholars through the liberality of the Clarendon Press; which also announces the publication of an accompanying collection of facsimiles under the title *Scriptura Beneventana*.

A defect of plan is the omission of charter hands, for whose exclusion no reason is given. One can well appreciate that any adequate treatment of the subject would have carried the author well beyond the limits of the present volume, but something should have been attempted, if only for purposes of comparison. The amount of dated and placed material in charters is far greater than in codices, and an examination of the originals at Naples, Cava, and Monte Cassino—to go no further afield—would at least have afforded a means of controlling the results gained from other sources. Such explorations might also possibly have made additions to the small number of cartularies mentioned in Dr. Loew's list of Beneventan manuscripts.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

A Select Bibliography for the Study, Sources, and Literature of English Mediaeval Economic History. Compiled by a Seminar of the London School of Economics under the Supervision of HUBERT HALL, F.S.A., Reader in Palaeography and Economic History, University of London. (London: P. S. King and Son. 1914. Pp. xiii, 350.)

It is a source of satisfaction to discover that there are in existence many more bibliographical guides than might be supposed. In the process of compiling the general bibliography of modern British history, the collaborators in that work have been struck with the number of scholarly